

German Combat Estimate 1943 + 1941 & 1942

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By Authority Director of Intelligence, WDCS
Date: 5 DEC 1947

GERMANY (2)

Combat Estimate (1)

I. SYSTEM OF NATIONAL DEFENSE

Coordination of National Defense.

a. Armed Forces. The Armed Forces (Wehrmacht) of the nation consist of the Army (Heer), Navy (Kriegsmarine), and Air Force (Luftwaffe), each with its Commander and General Staff. The outstanding characteristic of German military operations in the present war has been the remarkable coordination of these three sister services, Army, Navy and Air Force, into a unified command for definite tasks. The operations of elements of these services participating in a campaign are coordinated by the campaign commander who is designated by the High Command of the Armed Forces (Oberkommando der Wehrmacht).

b. Supreme Commander. Reichsfuehrer Hitler is the supreme commander of the German armed forces. The chain of command extends from him through the Armed Force general staff directly to the Commander of the Army (Herr Hitler has now taken over personal command of the Army), the Commander of the Navy, and the Commander of the Air Force, and to the Chief of the Defense Office. The High Command of the Armed Forces is made up of the Commander in Chief, Adolf Hitler, assisted by a small coordinating staff, the General Staff of the Armed Forces, headed by the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces. The principal duty of this staff is to insure a thorough coordination of the Army, Navy, and Air Force in a given operation.

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c. Defense Office. The Defense Office functions directly under Hitler. It deals with matters common to all three services and is responsible in time of peace for the coordination of all measures of defense. It includes the Industrial Mobilization Bureau and the Counter-Espionage Section.

d. Quasi-Military Forces. Uniformed bodies of a quasi-military nature include the Nazi Party Armed Organizations (S.A. and S.S. Troops) The National Socialistic Motor Corps, the Labor Service Corps, the National Socialist Flying Corps, the Technical Emergency Help Corps, the Organization Todt and the Security or State Police. Except for certain picked S.S. and S.A. units, no party formations are used in war as combat units. The Nazi Party Armed Organizations function directly under Hitler through leaders for each of the three organizations, while the Labor Service and Technical Emergency Help Corps function under the Minister of the Interior. The Security or State Police function under the leader of the S.S.

Estimated strengths of the above are:

National Socialistic Motor Corps - - - -	250,000
Labor Service Corps - - - - -	500,000
National Socialistic Flying Corps - - -	100,000
Technical Emergency Help Corps - - - -	150,000
Organization Todt - - - - -	450,000

The total police force has been estimated to be less than 1,000,000.

II. ARMY.

2. Personnel.

a. Estimate of Strength of Components.

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ESTIMATE OF STRENGTH OF COMPONENTS
(278 divisions not including G.H.Q. Army and Corps Troops)

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>NUMBER IDENTIFIED</u>	<u>NUMBER ESTIMATED IN EXISTENCE</u>		
		<u>Offensive</u>	<u>Defensive</u>	<u>Administrative</u>
anzer Divisions	27	27		
Motorized Infantry	11	12		
Light (Jäger) Divisions	7	8		
SS Divisions	8	10		
Mountain Divisions	7	8		
<u>Infantry</u>				
Normal Triangular Divisions	117	118		
Modified Triangular Divisions	30	31		
Two Regiment Divisions	15		15	
Lines of Communications Sicherungs Divisionen	12		12	
Administrative Divisions	34			30
Replacement Training Divisions	34		15	19
Coastal Division Commands	3		7	
Equivalent (Potential) Divisions		10		
Frontier Divisions	5		5	
TOTALS	310	224	54	49

From the foregoing it will be seen that there are 278 combat divisions in the German Army of which 224 are offensive and 54 defensive. Taking as an average 17,000 men per division we obtain a total of roughly 4,726,000 troops to which should be added G.H.Q. Army and Corps troops including technical and zone of the inferior personnel 2,780,000

TOTAL 7,506,000

The above figures represent the estimated strength of the Army as of 1942 and do not include antiaircraft troops which are part of the Air Force.

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b. Additional Manpower. The total manpower of Greater Germany available for military service is about 12,500,000 men. Of this total about 9,300,000 are under arms including army, navy, and air corps. It is estimated that a yearly increment of around 500,000 men physically fit for military service is available. This annual increment plus certain "comb outs" from industry has been sufficient to replace battle losses. However, any further call on manpower will seriously interfere with industrial production which is maintained with aid of woman labor, labor drawn from other European nations and with the aid of prisoners of war.

3. Organization.

a. Commander in Chief. At the head of the High Command of the Army (Oberkommando des Heeres) is an army officer who is designated as Commander in Chief of the Army (Der Oberbefehlshaber des Heeres) by Reichsfuehrer Hitler. (This function for the present has been assumed by Herr Hitler). The Commander in Chief is the actual head of the Army without occupying the status of a cabinet member. He commands the Army in time of peace and is the field commander in time of war.

b. The High Command of the Army.

(1) Organization. The High Command of the Army is organized into eight main sections:

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The General Staff (Generalstab)

The Adjutant's Office (Adjutantur)

The Personnel Office (Personalamt)

General Army Office (Allgemeine Heeresamt)

The Ordnance Office (Heeres Waffenamts)

The Administrative Office (Heeres Verwaltungssamt).

The Chief of the Mobile Troops (Chef der Schnellen Truppen)

The Inspectorate of Cadet Schools (Inspektion der Kriegsschulen)

(2) The General Staff. The General Staff of the Army is headed by a general officer who is designated as Chief of Staff of the Army General Staff. It is organized into sections corresponding generally to our G-2, G-3 and G-4 Sections. In addition there is a training section, historical section, and an inspectorate of fortresses. The functions of G-1 in our army are divided between G-4 and the Adjutantur.

c. Principles of Organization. The German approach to military organization is one of extreme flexibility since they feel that organizational practice must remain fluid in order to be in a position to take advantage of the rapid progress of science as applied to war. Therefore, German tables of organization serve only as a guide and they should not be considered as inflexible laws. Rigid adherence to tables of organization is made unnecessary through the use of the following fundamental principles:

(1) The Einheit principle. The Einheit or unit principle of organization is based on the inclusion of a standard group, with standard organization and equipment as the basic unit in all organizations of the army where its use is applicable. Such units include the standard rifle group (rifle team, light machine gun team, and a light mortar team) the radio group, the combat train, ration train, and baggage train.

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(2) The principle of tactical self-sufficiency of combat units. According to this principle, each combat unit of the German Army, from the basic infantry group to the complete division, is so organized, armed and equipped as to be tactically self-sufficient to accomplish its local combat mission.

(3) The principle of administrative self-sufficiency of combat units. Another and most important principle of German organization is what might be termed the administrative self-sufficiency of tactical units, which requires that each tactical unit responsible for administration be so organized as to be independent as to personnel and transportation of the next higher unit.

(4) The use of the triangular and square formations. German organization uses both the triangular and square formation. All units whose tactical employment is based on fire and movement are organized with the triangular formation, while all units whose tactical employment is based on shock action alone are organized with the square formation, while purely reconnaissance units use the parallel formation.

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g. Second Line Forces.

(1) The German Army inactive forces were subdivided into:

(a) Reserve. All officers and soldiers who have been let out of the active force and who are not yet 36 years of age.

(b) Replacement Reserve. All men capable of bearing arms who have not served in the active force and who are not yet 36 years old.

(c) Landwehr. All men capable of bearing arms between the ages of 36 and 45 years.

(d) Landsturm. All men capable of bearing arms, over 45 years of age (46 to 55).

(2) General organization of the police. All police now come under the control of Department III of the combined Reich and Prussian Home Office. The present head of the police is also head of the Schutz-Staffeln (SS) and has the title of Reichsführer S.S. und Chef der Deutschen Polizei.

The police proper are divided into:

1. Constabulary (Ordnungspolizei):

a. City Police (Schutzpolizei)

b. Rural constabulary (Gendarmerie)

2. Security police (Sicherheitspolizei):

a. Secret state police (Geheimstaatspolizei or Gestapo)

b. Criminal police (Kriminalpolizei)

Other types of police are employed in addition to the police proper. These types are the Militarized Police, and Auxiliary Police.

The command of all constabulary is vested in a general of police; the security police come under a senior officer of the Schutz-Staffeln.

City police (Schutzpolizei). The city police or constabulary police perform the ordinary patrol and traffic control duties and are generally responsible for public order. The organization of the constabulary is not definitely known, but it is probable that its "Bereitschaften," which correspond to companies, are grouped into higher formations known as "Kommandos" and "Inspektionen."

Rural constabulary (Gendarmerie). The duties of the rural constabulary corresponds to those of the state constabularies in the United States. The motorized branch of this force is organized into 42 Bereitschaften (companies), which are widely distributed over the whole country and are responsible for the supervision of traffic on the new motor roads (Reichsautobahnen), and other main roads.

Secret state police (Geheimstaatspolizei or Gestapo). This is the supreme organization responsible for countering any movement directed against the State. Among its far-reaching activities, which permeate the whole life of the nation, is the censoring of all correspondence and literature to and from other countries which might in any way prove inimical to the interests of the state. Its regular personnel is mainly drawn from the Schutz-Staffeln.

Criminal police (Kriminalpolizei). The criminal police are solely concerned with the prevention and detection of crime. They do not wear uniforms.

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Militarised police. These police are semimilitary in character and are quartered in barracks in contrast to that part of the police that lives at home. The constabulary provides personnel for the militarised police which are now extensively employed in the occupied territories, thereby releasing troops for service elsewhere. The operational unit is the battalion composed of four companies, the fourth being the heavy MG company. For administration, battalions are sometimes grouped in regiments. Most battalions are partially motorized and include armored car, signal corps, medical and repair shop detachments. Divisions formed from the militarized police (S.S. Polizei Division) also exist. They are organized similar to the ordinary infantry divisions.

Auxiliary police (Hilfspolizei). This additional body of police was employed in Poland, where it helped the militarized police (Rural constabulary, above) to clean up back areas. It is still employed in this connection and may also be encountered in other occupied countries.

(3) Nazi Party Troops. No estimate of the German military strength would be complete without consideration of the organized semi-military forces.

(a). The S.S. (known variously as Schutz-Staffel, Black Shirts, or the Corps d'Elite) is the most powerful and closely knit element of the Nazi Party. It was organized territorially into 17 districts. In these districts the men were organized into approximately 30 brigades. In estimating the value of the S.S. as a military force it is necessary to differentiate sharply between the Verfügungs-Truppen and the ordinary S.S. These two components of the S.S. are organized differently,

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(b). The S.A. (Sturm Abteilung, Storm Battalions, or the Brown Shirts) was organized territorially into 25 districts, with a strength of about 1,500,000 members. On January 19, 1939, Hitler decreed that the S.A. should be incorporated into the military reserve system of the German army and that its organizations should take over in peace the military refresher training of all reservists released by the armed forces. This revolutionary change completely changed the role of the S.A. and saved it from approaching oblivion. The National Socialist Mounted Corps, a special section of the S.A., has been formed in order to improve the riding training of cavalry recruits.

The Technische Nothilfe or the Technical Emergency Help Corps has the purpose of furnishing emergency technical help for the operation of industries or utilities vital to the public interests. It is composed of technical experts and workers of sworn loyalty, is uniformed, and has a military form of organization. It is primarily for the protection of localities in Germany.

The N.S.K.K. (National Socialist Motor Corps) with its motor schools, is very important in forming and maintaining a pool of motor drivers and mechanics.

(4) The Arbeitsdienst, or Labor Service Corps corresponds in many respects to our civilian conservation corps. A number of Labor Service Corps units have been armed with the rifle, equipped with appropriate transportation and tools, and sent out to assist engineers in road construction and maintenance tasks, as well as the construction of airdromes and similar work within or in rear of the combat area.

(5) Organization Todt. The Organization Todt comprises the following services:

Administration: Central Organization at Avus-Nordschleife
Berlin West.

Chief Work Departments (O.B.L.).

Front control and security services.

Chief camps.

Groups.

Supply camps.

Police.

Punitive camps.

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Medical administration.

The Berlin Central, at Avus-Nordschleife-Berlin West, comprises, besides the Administration proper, a medical service, a dental clinic, a service of rail transports and to foreign countries, a road transport service, a repair service, a postal service, a clothing center, a day and night surveillance service, etc.

The Chief Work Departments which direct the various work services are in daily direct liaison with Berlin.

The Front Control takes care especially of the men who work in the various yards, of the interior services of the camps, hygienic, behavior, etc. A security service is added to this subdivision. It conducts investigations and assures the traffic between the punitive camps and work camps.

The chief camps are commanded by a Lagerführer (2 stars on epaulettes). In every camp there is a permanent hospital. In a general way all camps are allotted a certain number of truck columns. These trucks are used as required by the amount of work and on call from the O.B.L. (Oberbauleitung).

The Groups. Each group is led by a Gruppenführer. They are sent wherever work is to be done and are fed from the chief camp. The group is visited every day by an engineer of the O.B.L. and every 3 days by a physician.

The supply camp is an installation for supply of raw foods only. The various services call there for their rations at the designated days and hours.

Police. The men belonging to the Todt police are recruited

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from members of the organization. They receive premilitary training and assure security by day and night of important work as well as safety of the trains and trucks of the organization while en route. The chauffeurs of the trucks must have a gasoline book, an oil book, a trip book (showing the length of each trip) and a starter order, without which they cannot leave.

Punitive Camp. It groups men of each nationality and each rank. These men are compelled to do the same work under permanent surveillance of an armed sentry. Laborious work is done to gymnastic counting and without a breathing spell. Punishment is inflicted for breach of discipline, slow work or idleness.

Medical Service. It is a quite autonomous service which functions entirely independently of any other of the Todt services. It is under a surgeon general in Berlin and administered by regional centers. In the North of France there is a surgeon and an ambulance for every 4000 to 6000 men and a hospital for each camp of more than 500. Each hospital has a waiting room, a dressing room and 6 to 8 cots for slightly ill men.

Recruiting of Organization Todt Workers. This is done partly by the employment bureaus which send the men to the Berlin Central office, partly by scanning the public works and industrial plants for a certain percentage of engineers, technicians and workmen. The most sought after are the little public works undertakings. It is not rare that the employer comes with all his workmen, his accounting department, his trucks, tractors, and concrete mixers, etc. and the organization Todt becomes the renter under quite advantageous conditions. This is particularly true of German workers and those from the annexed

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provinces. The hiring of German workers is for a minimum of one year. The hiring of foreign workmen is done by regions among the population and through employment agencies. Workmen who live far from the yards are quartered by the organization, picked up by autos and fed at noon in the yards. The foreign workers who live in the region where the work is done go home every night. It is noteworthy that the largest part of the German workers hired by the Organization Todt, have been working for the organization since 1938, the time of the great undertakings on the Westwall. Since then their number has steadily increased.

4. Equipment. a. Individual. The troops all have excellent uniforms, rations, and tentage. Their arms and material may be summarized as follows:

(1) Infantry. All enlisted men are armed with the carbine and bayonet. Officers and noncommissioned officers have automatic pistols and all enlisted men carry hand grenades. Infantry rifle units are armed in general as follows:

Rifle - Mauser, Cal. 7.9 mm., Karbiner 98 k.

Bayonet - sword pattern.

Automatic Pistol - Cal. 9 mm., Pistole 08.

Machine Pistol - (Schmeisser Machine Pistol, Cal. 8.9 mm.
- Steyr - Solothurn Machine Pistol, Cal. 9 mm.

Hand Grenade - potato masher type.

(2) Artillery. All officers and noncommissioned officers are armed with the automatic pistol. Platoon commanders are sometimes armed with the machine pistol. All enlisted men are armed with the carbine and carry hand grenades.

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(3) Reconnaissance Battalions. Officers in mounted reconnaissance battalions are armed with the saber and automatic pistol. All enlisted men are armed with the carbine (with bayonet), saber, and hand grenades.

Saber - Curved blade type.

(4) Engineers. Officers and enlisted men of the pioneer companies are armed with the rifle, bayonet, and hand grenades.

(5) Police. The individual armament of the Security Police consists of:

The automatic pistol, carbine and bayonet, and sword.

(6) General. German soldiers of all units are armed with the carbine.

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5. Training, Efficiency, and Morale.

a. Training. The training of German troops is of the highest possible order. The basic infantry training is regarded as vital for every soldier and officer and in addition, equivalent physical, educational, and special training is given in the various branches for every rank.

b. Efficiency. The efficiency of the German Army is very high, indeed, outranking any other. In the German Army, infantry divisions, motorized divisions, and armored divisions, have approximately equal combat value within their respective types. The army as a whole has efficiency of the highest type and has shown itself capable of giving an outstanding performance in battle.

c. The morale of the armed forces is high due not only to the success of German armies, but also, to the realization that Germany is in a critical period in her aspirations to become a great world power.

6. Mobilization Plan.

a. General Method. Mobilization has been created in such a way as to produce the greatest military force without materially weakening her industrial power.

b. Probable Labor Resources. In order to maintain industrial production, Germany is employing around 14,600,000 men and 9,400,000 women. In addition to the above there are being employed in German industry and agriculture, an estimated total of 6,000,000 men and women from other European nations, including a possible 2,000,000 prisoners of war. These figures will probably increase with the occupation of France. The two latter figures go far in compensating for the manpower inducted into the armed forces.

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c. Reserve Supplies. The tremendous munitions industry has been working full force and huge quantities of booty have been acquired in campaigns to date. Reserve supplies seem to be more than adequate.

d. System of Industrial Coordination. Germany has coordinated her industry and natural resources for war on a large scale. The ramifications of her general plan into so many phases of her economic fabric and are so skillfully camouflaged that it is not easy for a foreigner or even a German to state definitely in any great public works program, where civil necessities cease and industrial coordination begins.

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III. The Air Force

7. Personnel.

Pilots	63.750
Non Flying Officers	26.250
Air-Signal Troops	75.000
Air-Borne Troops	75.000
Anti-Aircraft Troops	1.000.000
Enlisted Men	<u>712.000</u>
Total Personnel	1.952.000

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8. Organization.

a. General. The German Air Force (Luftwaffe) is one of the three major branches of the German Armed Forces (Wehrmacht). Although the Air Force has its own Commander-in-Chief, its own Chief-of-Staff, and its own G.H.Q., it is, like the Army and the Navy, entirely subordinate to the Headquarters of the Armed Forces.

The chain of command in the Air Force is from the Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the German Armed Forces (Hitler), through the Chief of the Supreme General Staff (Keitel), to the Commander-in-Chief of the Air Force (Goering).

Reich Marshal Goering commands the Air Force through the Air Ministry and through his subordinate commanders of air combat units. Air combat units operate as a part of the various task forces under the task force commander. In this way, coordination of air and ground effort is assured.

A task force may be composed of any one, two, or even all three branches of the German Armed Forces. When units of the Air Force are assigned as part of a task force team, they are under the direct control of the task force commander, who may employ them in any manner he sees fit in order to accomplish his assigned mission.

b. Commander-in-Chief. Reich Marshal Goering serves in the dual capacity of Minister of Aviation and Commander-in-Chief of the Air Force (Luftwaffe). As Commander-in-Chief of the Air Force, he is charged with the administration and operation of the Air Force, with the exception of the operation of those combat units assigned to a particular task force. As Minister of Aviation, he is a member of the Cabinet and is responsible for the coordination and supervision of

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civil aviation.

g. Air Ministry. The Air Ministry is organized into two major sections, (1) the Command Section, directly under the Commander-in-Chief of the Air Force and (2) the Administration Section, under the direction of the Secretary of State for Air and Inspector General. The Secretary of State for Air and Inspector General is second in command to Goering.

(1) Command Section. The Command Section of the Air Ministry is charged with tactical operations. It is composed of the following sub-divisions:

(a) Army Aviation Commander and Inspector of Army Aviation.

This officer has command of all personnel, airplanes, antiaircraft artillery, and air communications assigned to the Army. He is directly responsible to the Commanding General of the Army for operations. As Inspector of Army Aviation, this officer is responsible to the Commander-in-Chief of the Air Force for the condition of equipment and training of personnel. He also functions in an advisory capacity to the Commanding General of the Army and is liaison officer between the Commander of the Air Force and the Commanding General of the Army.

(b) Naval Aviation Commander and Inspector of Naval Aviation.

This officer functions for the Navy exactly as the corresponding officer described in (a) above functions for the Army.

(c) Chief of the Minister's Office and Special Staff.

This officer functions in an administrative capacity for the Air Minister in either his military or civil air capacities. He also coordinates civil and military aviation matters. Included in his office is a small

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advisory staff which studies policies and in general terms, advises the Commander of the Air Force.

(d) Aerial Armament Commission. This is a permanent commission which examines all armament problems and advises the Commander of the Air Force thereon.

(e) The Air Force General Staff. This staff is concerned with perfecting plans for the use of the Air Force in all emergencies. It has no command functions. It contains Intelligence, Operations, Organization, and Quartermaster Sections.

(f) The Air General Staff School. This is a special staff school designed to educate Air Force officers for duty with the Air General Staff.

(2) Administration Section. This section is charged with the general administration, inspection, training, and equipment of the Air Force. It includes the following subdivisions:

(a) Office of the Chief of Air Force. This office has the following subdivisions:

General Administration Branch, which handles all Air Force administration, including budget, pay, clothing, and buildings and grounds.

Personnel Branch, which administers all personnel, both military and civilian.

Miscellaneous Air Office, which is primarily concerned with air defense, both active and passive. It also administers civil aviation (both in war and peacetime), insurance, and the air police.

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(b) Central Section of the Air Ministry. This office is concerned chiefly with relations between the offices of the Air Ministry and offices external to the Air Force, and with the administration of the Air Ministry building. It contains the Legal, Attache, Press, and Ministerial offices.

(c) Office of the Chief Engineer and Quartermaster General of the Air Force. This office handles all design, research, technical development, construction, testing, employment and supply of material, procurement, repair, and disposition of all Air Force equipment. It also handles all questions concerning the German aircraft industry.

(d) Office of the Chief of Training and Education. This office administers all Air Force training, with the exception of the Air General Staff School. It also inspects training, equipment, and fitness for use of all branches of aviation.

(e) Office of the Chief Signal Officer. This office is responsible for the administration of all matters pertaining to telephone, teletype, and radio communications in the Air Force.

d. The Air Force. The German Air Force consists of regular air personnel, antiaircraft personnel, signal troops, parachute troops, and air infantry personnel.

(1) Territorial Organization. Prior to the war, the German Air Force was distributed on a purely territorial basis. The country was divided into four sections with an Air Fleet assigned to each section. Each territorial section was then subdivided into two or more Air Districts (Luftgau) for administrative purposes. The tactical direction of all units in the section was the responsibility of the Air Fleet Commander. Thus the term Air Fleet originally embraced both

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a territorial and a tactical command. The tactical command, however, was organized as a mobile unit.

When the war began, the tactical units moved to the theater of war. As an Air Fleet moved from one front to another, its original geographic identity was lost and identical geographical boundaries for both tactical and administrative commands were no longer maintained. Although the boundaries of the Air Fleets are not fixed, those of the Air Districts remained unchanged.

The boundaries of the Air Districts are stationary. Air District headquarters are located primarily in Germany proper, but Luftgau units have moved into the various fronts and occupied territory with the operational units. The Commander of each Air District is responsible for the active and passive defense of the District; for the administration, supply and maintenance of all units in his Command; for all training, other than auxiliary units; and for antiaircraft artillery in his district not otherwise assigned to the field army or for special tasks. He is also charged with the recruitment, mobilization, and training of reserve personnel.

(2) Tactical Organization. The combat forces at present consist of seven known Air Fleets (Luftflotten). Each Air Fleet is assigned to a particular operational or command area, but the entire Air Fleet or any of its component parts may be moved in or out of its command area at the direction of the High Command.

An Air Fleet consists of two or more Air Corps (Flieger Korps). The Air Corps were formed by expanding the Air Divisions which existed during peace time.

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(3) An Air Corps consists of several Air Wings (Geschwader), normally 3, but varying from 2 to 5 according to the estimated requirements to perform its assigned mission.

An Air Wing consists of two or more groups (Gruppen).

An Air Group consists of three or more Squadrons (Staffeln).

A Squadron consists of three flights (Schwärm, Ketten, or Rotten) plus a reserve flight. The Schwärm has five planes; the Ketten, three; the Rotten, two. Normally, a flight will consist of three aircraft.

Squadrons, groups, and wings are more or less uniform in composition and are usually homogeneous, i.e. - made up of one type and model of aircraft.

One Flieger division, #7, has been identified in current operations. This Air Division has some parachute units assigned to it.

Current Estimate of Plane Strength of German Air Force.

Long range Bombers	2000	
Bomber Reconnaissance	450	
Dive Bombers	600	
Total Bombers		3050
Single Engine Fighters	1550	
Twin Engine Fighters	800	
Total Fighters		2350
Army Cooperation		600
Coastal		200
Total First Line Aircraft		6200
In Schools and Advanced Training		2100
In Unattached Reserves		2700
Total Combat Types		11000

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(3) Air Force Arms and Services. The Air Force Arms and Services are comprised of the usual garrisons and certain special service units.

(a) Garrisons. Garrison organization closely resembles that in the United States, but staffs and administration are simplified. Semi-military personnel do most of the fatigue duty around the post. In addition, many garrisons have a station complement which remains at the post when troops are away.

(b) Antiaircraft Artillery. German antiaircraft artillery is an arm of the German Air Force. It is called "Flak Artillery," or simply "Flak." "Flak" is a derivation of the initials of "Flug Abwehr Kanone," meaning "air defense cannon."

Flak has the following missions:

- (1) To provide the general air defense of Germany and occupied territories.
- (2) To provide special concentrated defense in specific areas or places where important industrial or military targets are located.
- (3) To provide defense for German troops, military establishments, and air forces in the various theaters of war.
- (4) When part of a task force, to perform any mission assigned it by the task force commander. These missions include antitank, assault of fortifications, counterbattery, and direct support of other ground forces.

The first two of the above missions are performed by units attached to the Air Districts under an Air Force Commander. The third and fourth missions are accomplished by units assigned to operating units of the Army and Air Force. Antiaircraft artillery is organized as follows:

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(a) Mobile Units. These units accompany and operate with the field forces. They are assigned to and are an essential part of task forces.

(b) Zone of Interior Units. These units are a combination of mobile and stationary units for the protection of important objectives in the zone of the interior.

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(2) Infantry Landing Troops Division. These troops may be units of most any arm or service equipped, armed, and trained for transportation by air. A special divisional organization is evolved for each mission. In general, an Air Landing Division differs from that of a normal Infantry Division in the following ways:

Strength is 40-60% of a normal Infantry Division.

A smaller percentage of supporting weapons.

A higher percentage of riflemen.

No artillery heavier than 75 mm. mountain guns. Customary maximum artillery calibre is 2.95 inches.

Skeleton supply services.

No transport vehicles.

A higher proportion of officers and N.C.O.s.

(f) Services. In addition to flying personnel, antiaircraft artillery, air signal, and air infantry troops, the German Air Force has supply, air supervision, air engineer, and medical troops. Detailed organization of these service troops is not available.

9. Equipment.

a. Individual. Officers and non-commissioned officers are armed with automatic pistols. All other enlisted men, except medical troops, are armed with the rifle and bayonet.

b. Aircraft and accessories.

(1) Aircraft.

(a) Combat. By way of compensating for their adherence to the principle of standardization in aircraft design, the Germans

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to date have resorted to modification of existing types in order to meet, if possible, changing requirements of performance. Thus, the following chart of characteristics and performance is subject to frequent revision.

Definitely new aircraft are represented in the chart by the Focke-Wulf 190, the Heinkel 177, and the Blohm and Voss 141. None of these types nor other new aircraft had appeared in numbers during the spring of 1942. Nevertheless, sufficient information had accumulated to suggest that quantity production of a number of new types was imminent at this writing.

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C. Bases.

- (1) Development. Germany started the war with some 120 operational airdromes and an equal number of unattended landing fields. In March 1942 there were at least 570 airdromes and landing fields in greater Germany.

Construction of air bases in occupied countries has been extensive and there are now about 900 air bases in the occupied countries of central and western Europe. Norway has a system of over 70 bases, half of which are airdromes and landing fields and the remainder seaplane stations and alighting areas. Denmark has some 40 airbases controlled by the Germans. In Holland there are 23 German airdromes and landing fields and 3 seaplane stations. Belgium has 34 landing fields, 32 airdromes, and a seaplane station. Occupied France has undergone the greatest development and now has about 500 bases available to the G.A.F. Of these, 47 are fully equipped bomber airdromes, 28 are permanent fighter airdromes, and 9 are for bomber reconnaissance. The remaining 400 or more bases are landing grounds and emergency fields.

The majority of airdromes in Germany proper are used for supply bases for G.A.F. units stationed in forward areas and for flight training; only a few in northwest Germany are used for night fighters. In occupied areas, however, the primary function of airdromes has been as a base for offensive activity over British, anti-shipping attacks, and reconnaissance. A few bases in occupied France are reserved for ⁿErg  ngungsgruppen, but the majority are for operational units.

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10. Training, Efficiency and Morale.

a. Training.

(1) High Command. The system and general organization of the G.A.F. training are the responsibility of the training Inspectorate, which is headed by a general officer of the Air Ministry. Each Luftgau is responsible for training in its own area.

(2) Pre-Military Training. The German Youth Organization, the Flying Hitler Youth Organization, and the National Socialistic Flying Corps all encourage and instruct young German boys in building model airplanes and gliders and in flying.

(3) Recruit Training. This is a course of five months at various recruit depots, where basic military training as soldiers and mechanical training are undergone, and recruits best qualified for pilots are selected for the air cadet schools.

(4) Pilots. Training at Elementary Training Schools consists of about 100 hours, partially in dual and solo flying and then in the more advanced types of single-engine ships. Students are then chosen for their special type of flying and sent on to advanced training as bomber pilots, dive bomber pilots and fighter pilots. Upon graduation the cadet is given his commission and sent to an Operational Training School for further training on his particular aircraft and to await assignment to a combat unit.

(5) Special Training. Special schools are set up for the training of observers, radio operators, air gunners and mechanics, and for short courses in weapons, dive bombing, wireless, gliding,

photography, navigation, bombing, and parachute operations.

(6) Officers in the Air Corps are commissioned in the Flying Corps, Air Force Engineers, Antiaircraft Artillery, Signal Corps, Air Medical Corps, and Air Infantry. Officer material is selected from civil life and the ranks.

(7) Academies. There are three: the General Staff Academy, the Air Engineer Academy, and the Advanced Air Force School.

b. Relative Ranks. The ranks are the same as for the army.

c. Pay and Emoluments. Basic pay is according to rank.

War Service Pay is given to all married personnel, all flying personnel, personnel not serving at their peacetime stations, and reserves called to active duty. Extra daily pay has been given in Africa, and adjustments are made to meet the higher cost of living in occupied countries. Special Flying pay varies with rank and the amount of hazard in a man's flying job. A newly commissioned officer receives an allowance for his uniform, and a monthly uniform allowance is granted for uniform keep.

d. Efficiency. German pilots are highly efficient--cool, calculating, dominated by a will to win, and possessing a high degree of confidence. Perhaps not as dashing and daring as the American or the British pilots, they usually do not attack unless they have the advantage. This is not necessarily due to a lack of courage but more so prompted by the fact that they consider war a desperate business where unnecessary chances should not be taken. There is

undoubtedly now a shortage of experienced pilots and crews trained for combat operations, which fact might well become the "bottle-neck" of the German Air Force. Though Germany is still using many obsolete planes, the majority of its planes compare favorably with those possessed by other countries. Its organization, personnel, and morale must be considered excellent and it can be conquered only by an enemy possessing superior qualifications in these categories.

- e. Morale. Morale is generally high in the G.A.F. It fluctuates, of course, with the course of the war, but the men have great faith in their aircraft and airmen. Homesickness appears to be the only real problem. More and more, however, members of the G.A.F. are coming to recognize the extent of their losses and to realize that it will be a long war despite the Führer's promises.

11. Mobilization Plans. The methods of recruiting G.A.F. personnel are the following.

- a. Active Officers. In time of peace officers are obtained from Officer Cadet Colleges. During the present war officers are selected from civil life and from the ranks.
- b. Reserve Officers. The system of procurement is, in general, the same as that used in the Army.
- c. Men. Enlisted personnel for the active Air Force is recruited by voluntary enlistment. Flying personnel enlist for four and a half years. All others enlist for two years.

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IV. NAVY.

14. Strength.

a. Personnel. The strength of the Navy at this time is estimated at around 365,000 men and 12,000 officers.

b. Ships. Total effective completed tonnage: 173,267 tons; total building or appropriated for: 276,069 tons (excluding mine-sweepers and smaller craft).

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15. Organization.

a. The entire German war machine is headed by Hitler, who is his own Minister of War as well as Fuehrer and Reich Chancellor. Under Hitler is the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces (OKW) which is a unified war ministry concerned with problems of grand strategy and with the coordination of the activities of Germany's three military branches: Navy, Army, and the Air Force. Chief of the OKW is General Field Marshal Keitel, who serves as Hitler's Deputy Minister of War.

The Supreme Operational Command and administrative authority of the German Navy are vested in the person of the Commander-in-Chief of the Navy, Grand Admiral Raeder. Immediately under Raeder's orders are: (1) the "Supreme Command of the Navy" (Oberkommando der Kriegsmarine, OKM), which is the Navy's administrative branch and the equivalent of our Navy Department; (2) the Group Commander North and the Group Commander West who, under Raeder and the Naval Command Office, are responsible for operations.

b. Supreme Command of the Navy. The Supreme Command of the Navy is composed of eight main divisions. Its organization is detailed in the chart attached hereto.

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(1) The first of these divisions is the Staff of the Commander-in-Chief. Save that it operates as a staff rather than as an advisory body, it resembles the General Board of the United States Navy. It includes a Chief of Staff's Office under which is a General Division. Attached are the Military Section for Navy Engineering, a Naval Medical Section, a Naval Budget Group, a Naval Conference Group, and a Naval Strategy Section.

(2) The Naval Personnel Division, the next main division, was established in 1936 and at that time dealt only with commissioned personnel. Whether its functions have expanded since that time is not known.

(3) The Naval Command Office may be compared to our Operations Office. It includes Operations, Naval Organization, Naval Intelligence and Naval Communications, Naval Education and Training. In 1938 Naval Intelligence was transferred from the Commander-in-Chief's Staff to the Naval Communication's Section in the Naval Command Office.

(4) The Naval Defense Office contains four sections: Naval Defense Section, Diverse Military Affairs Section, Legal Section, and Naval Printing and Official Publication Section.

(5) The General Naval Office provides for the material readiness of the Navy, conducts hydrographic work and maintains contact with the Merchant Marine and with industry in general. It has six sections: Testing Committee, Docks and Yards Section, Hydrographic Office, Merchant Marine Section, Military Economics, and a Statistical Section.

(6) The Naval Armaments Office develops and constructs ordnance of all types. Its sections include: Staff Section, Ordnance Development and Construction, Forts and Harbor Buildings Section, General Ordnance Section, and Group for Underwater Weapons.

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(7) The Naval Administration Office controls pay, provisioning, clothing and housing. Under it are the administrative branches at Kiel and Wilhelmshaven.

(8) The Naval Construction Office designs and supervises the construction of new ships and their propelling machinery. It contains a Naval Architecture Office and a Naval Engineering Section and is staffed by civilians.

g. Operational Branches of the Navy.

(1) The Fleet. In the pre-war organization, the commander-in-chief of the fleet reported directly to the commander-in-chief of the Navy. The increased scope of the theatres of fleet operations, however, made it desirable to put the direction of these operations in the hands of a newly created commander who would issue, from shore, the communications necessary for widespread sea operations. Therefore, two new high command positions were created: the Group Commander East, with Headquarters at Kiel, and the Group Commander West, with Headquarters at Wilhelmshaven. After the fall of France, one Group Commander moved his Headquarters to Paris. He is now called Group Commander West. The other Group Commander, with Headquarters probably at Wilhelmshaven, is called Group Commander North. Their task is the conduct of all operations in their area, including the use of such forces afloat, up to the entire fleet, which may be assigned them by the Supreme Command. Until contact has been made with the enemy, the commander-in-chief or task force commander carries out the instructions of the Supreme Command relayed through the Group Commander. After contact has been made with an enemy fleet, the fleet commander or task force commander has full authority and responsibility.

Prior to the war, the fleet was divided into various commands as follows: (a) Commander (Befehlshaber) or Armored Ships (Pocket Battleships);

(b) Commander (Befehlshaber) of the Scouting Forces, to whom reported Commanders (Fuehrer) of Torpedo Boats, E-boats and Minesweepers; (3) Commander (Fuehrer) of Submarines.

This was the set-up before Germany had completed her two battleships GNEISENAU and SCHARNHORST and her heavy cruisers. Doubtless the addition of these ships has changed the situation with regard to subordinate commands, but the exact status of these commands is not known.

It is probable that a special commander is now assigned for a special task. For example, when the GNEISENAU, SCHARNHORST, and PRINZ EUGEN left Brest in February of this year for their home port, the three units, together with escorting vessels, were under command of Rear Admiral Ciliax, who had been assigned the special mission of bringing them home. Under ordinary circumstances, however, it is probable that major operations employing one or more major units of the fleet are under the command of the commander-in-chief of the fleet. This post is presently occupied by Admiral Schniewind, successor to Admiral Luetjens, who went down with the BISMARCK.

(2) The Submarine Command. The Commander (formerly Fuehrer now Befehlshaber) of Submarines (BdU), Admiral Doenitz, occupies an anomalous position in the fleet set-up. Apparently he is not under the orders of the Commander-in-chief of the fleet or even those of the Commanders North and West, but reports directly to Raeder. In fact he has even been known to bypass Raeder and go directly to Hitler himself. Operational orders for submarines go out directly from Doenitz to the various units.

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